



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7708 | FAX (517) 373.1450

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/

For Immediate Release
May 17, 2004

Contact: Scott Starr
517-373-7708

Sen. Gilbert's resolution calling for creation of Michigan-Ontario Commission scheduled for passage

LANSING – A resolution calling for the creation of a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission is scheduled for Senate passage Tuesday, Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, announced today.

Senate Resolution 228, sponsored by Gilbert, asks the governor to work with the premier of Canada to create this commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations and improve safety.

“The Michigan-Ontario border is probably the busiest border crossing in the United States,” Gilbert said during his testimony before the committee. “We need to ensure security and quick access for the many workers and travelers who cross each day. With as many as 6,000 commercial trucks crossing each day, standardizing regulations is crucial to Michigan’s and Canada’s economy.”

SR 228 is part of the JOBS Action Plan, a broad Republican plan for revitalizing Michigan’s economy, creating and saving jobs and spurring business investment.

Because of the proximity to the international border and the presence of the Blue Water Bridge, border-related issues are of special concern to residents in St. Clair County. The bridge is the third busiest border crossing between the United States and Canada, handling the transport of more than 12 percent of all trade between the two countries.

In addition, the commission would help improve homeland security, improve international trade and foster business growth. Both sides of the border are dependent on the swift and safe transport of goods and people between the countries, a key component to keeping down business costs.

“For geographic reasons, Michigan-Ontario border issues are a special concern to the residents of my district, but the homeland security and trade implications involved here affect all Michigan residents and all Americans,” said Gilbert.

-more-

Since last fall, Senate and House Republicans have been moving full speed ahead on the JOBS Action plan. Key legislation includes:

- Providing an equipment tax credit to promote development of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminating red-tape nightmares by reducing permit deadlines to six months;
- Expanding the use of private labs for state business; and
- Keeping business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies.

Also included in the plan is Gilbert's Senate Bill 875, which was sent to the governor last week. It would provide a tax incentive for small start-up businesses by exempting them from some taxes during their first five years of operation – traditionally the toughest years for businesses.

###